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## News from Local Congregations



**Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta**, celebrated its 96th Anniversary with a ground breaking ceremony on August 23 for a fellowship hall to be named for a beloved previous pastor, Joseph Boone. They have secured financing from the UCC Cornerstone Fund.

**Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta**, has begun a building to expand their sanctuary to accommodate their recent growth.

**First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, is about to embark on the next step of their building campaign, with a plan to completely restore the original building, and to improve the community building as an office suite and for class room space. They are also pleased to announce on **September 20 at 11:00** brilliant saxophonist and now seminarian **Kirk Whalum** will be our guest preacher and performer. All are invited!

**Church of the Savior, Knoxville**, is about to begin a series of capital improvements to expand their office and program space, with a loan from the Cornerstone Fund.

**Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham** reports that "fifteen members from Pilgrim UCC in Durham NC travelled to Birmingham, to do a civil rights tour and to help Beloved for 5 days! They landscaped, bought and installed planters and benches, bought us a weed eater and used it around our grounds, painted inside and out, helped us canvass 500 homes and organize a Neighborhood Open House and Ice Cream Social. It was an amazing act of generosity!"

**First UCC, Belvidere, TN**, pastor **Diantha Brown** celebrated Homecoming on August 9th by inviting their recent short term interim pastor **Chrissy Bonner** to preach.

--**UCC affiliated Fisk University** has entered collaboration with Vanderbilt University that is poised to become the nation's top source of Ph.D.s in physics and astronomy awarded to underrepresented minorities has received a major boost from three federal grants totaling \$3.7 million. "We are pleased to receive this federal support for Fisk, Vanderbilt and Delaware State students which reflects the quality of our existing programs," said Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary.

**Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville**, is about to start a second TAP class, and has 18 member who have expressed an interest!



We received word that **Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC**, received a grant from the NiN offering of the United Church of Christ, to promote a community garden to improve nutrition in low income communities.

**Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville**, walked for health care reform following worship on Sunday, August 23. Folks ages from 3 months old to 80 participate. Next step is to meet with our congresswoman and let him know our feelings. Pictures are at [www.webshots.com](http://www.webshots.com).



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Celebrating their common covenant in the UCC, **Virginia-Highland Church (A UCC and Baptist congregation)** and **Kirkwood UCC**, a new church start, both in Atlanta, shared worship and communion on August 23rd, followed by a pot luck lunch. Interim Pastor **Chris Glaser** of Virginia-Highland preached.

Discover the UCC!

*Posted on September 14, 2009*

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1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 350, Atlanta, GA 30309

Office: 800.807.1993, Fax: 404.607.7939